

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04131 111003Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 VO-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /063 W
-----068909 111752Z /41

R 110852Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4178
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4131

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: EVENTS AT PULAU BESAR REFUGEE CAMP, TRENGGANU

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 3870

1. DESPITE INCREASED EFFORTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO DISCOURAGE
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM LANDING AT PULAU BESAR REFUGEE CAMP
(POP. 5,000), (REFTEL) BOATS NEVERTHELESS ARRIVE, AND STAY,
AT THE RATE OF ONE PER DAY.

2. S.O.P. UPON ARRIVAL IS FOR LOCAL POLICE TO COMMAND VESSEL TO
LEAVE. AFTER, SHOTS ARE FIRED INTO WATER NEAR BOAT. HOWEVER,
REFUGEES AT CAMP SAY ONLY RARELY DO REFUGEE BOATS MOVE ON AS TOLD

3. IT IS ASSUMED THAT SIGHT OF REFUGEES ON SHORE NEAR PULAU BESAR
CAMP GIVES COURAGE TO REFUGEE BOATS TO BRAVE LOCAL POLICE
THREATS AND SPORADIC SHOTS OVER THE BOW. WHERE THERE ARE NO OTHER
REFUGEES VISIBLE NEAR LANDING SITES, IT IS THOUGHT BOATS TEND TO
MOVE ON.

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4. U.S. INTERVIEW TEAM, DUE TO ARRIVE PULAU BESAR TODAY, WILL
SPLIT UPON ARRIVAL THERE. EMBOFF AND INS OFF WILL PROCESS CASES
PREVIOUSLY PREPARED BY JVA. JVA WILL THEN MOVE UP TO KOTA
BARU, KELANTAN STATE, TO EXPEDITE CASE PREPARATION OF LARGE
NUMBER NEW ARRIVALS THERE. HOPES ARE THAT U.S. PRESENCE WILL
ENCOURAGE CONTINUED ACCEPTANCES UNTIL REFUGEES CAN BE MOVED

EITHER TO OTHER CAMPS OR OUT OF MALAYSIA.

5. JVA REP PRESENTLY AT PULAU BESAR REPORTS FRENCH CONSUL VISITED CAMP ON 7 MAY. THERE HE INTERVIEWED REFUGEES FROM 8:30 A.M. UNTIL AFTER 10:00 P.M. THOUGH CONSUL DID NOT SAY EXACTLY HOW MANY PERSONS HE TOOK, IT IS CERTAIN THAT AT LEAST 60 PERCENT OF APPLICANTS WERE ACCEPTED. HOPES ARE THAT CANADIAN TEAM, DUE OUT IN MID-MAY, WILL HAVE SAME APPLICATION/ ACCEPTANCE RATE.
MILLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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